

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 27 and ending on page 15, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, said method comprising: (a) microinjecting or transfecting a substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease into a fungal cell, wherein said substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent donor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent donor moiety; (b) contacting the cell with a member of a library of compounds; and (c) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces tRNA splicing endonuclease activity is identified if the fluorescence emission of the fluorescent acceptor moiety at the wavelength of the fluorescent donor moiety in the presence of the compound is ~~altered~~ increased relative to the fluorescence emission in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control, such as PBS). In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, said method comprising: (a) contacting a fungal cell containing substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease with a member of a library of compounds, wherein said substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent donor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with fluorescent donor moiety; and (b) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces tRNA splicing endonuclease activity is identified if the fluorescence emission of the fluorescent acceptor moiety at the wavelength of the fluorescent donor moiety in the presence of the compound is ~~decreased~~ increased relative to the fluorescence emission in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control, such as PBS).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 27 and ending on page 17, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, said method comprising: (a) contacting a fungal cell-free extract (preferably, a fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease extract) or a purified fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease with a substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease and a member of a library of compounds under conditions conducive to the cleavage of the substrate by the endonuclease, wherein the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorophore and at the 3' end with a quencher, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a quencher and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorophore; and (b) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces tRNA splicing endonuclease activity is identified if a fluorescent signal is less detectable in the presence of the compound relative to the signal in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control, such as PBS). In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, said method comprising: (a) contacting a fungal cell-free extract (preferably, a fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease extract) or a purified fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease with a substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease and a member of a library of compounds under conditions conducive for the cleavage of the substrate, wherein said substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent donor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent donor moiety; and (b) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces tRNA splicing endonuclease activity is identified if the fluorescent emission of the fluorescent acceptor moiety at the wavelength of the fluorescent donor moiety in the presence of the compound is ~~decreased~~ increased relative to the fluorescence emission in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control, such as PBS).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 72, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, said method comprising: (a) microinjecting or transfecting a substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease into a fungal cell, wherein said substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent donor

moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent donor moiety; (b) contacting the cell with a member of a library of compounds; and (c) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces tRNA splicing endonuclease activity is identified if the fluorescent emission of the fluorescent acceptor moiety at the wavelength of the fluorescent donor moiety in the presence of the compound is ~~decreased~~ increased relative to the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control. In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, said method comprising: (a) contacting a fungal cell containing substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease with a member of a library of compounds, wherein said substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent donor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety, and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent donor moiety; and (b) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces tRNA splicing endonuclease activity is identified if the fluorescence emission of the fluorescent acceptor moiety at the wavelength of the fluorescent donor moiety in the presence of the compound is ~~decreased~~ increased relative to the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 75, line 31 and ending on page 76, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, said method comprising: (a) contacting a fungal cell-free extract (preferably, a tRNA splicing endonuclease extract) or a purified fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease with a substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease and a member of a library of compounds, wherein the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorophore and at the 3' end with a quencher, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a quencher and the 3' end is labeled with a fluorophore; and (b) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits tRNA splicing endonuclease activity is identified if a fluorescent signal is less detectable (or not detectable) in the presence of the compound relative to the signal in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control. In

another embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease activity, the method comprising: (a) contacting a fungal cell-free extract (preferably, a tRNA splicing endonuclease extract) or a purified fungal tRNA splicing endonuclease with a substrate of a tRNA splicing endonuclease and a member of a library of compounds, wherein said substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent donor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety, or, alternatively, the substrate is labeled at the 5' end with a fluorescent acceptor moiety and labeled at the 3' end with a fluorescent donor moiety; and (b) measuring the activity of the tRNA splicing endonuclease, wherein an antifungal compound that inhibits or reduces tRNA endonuclease splicing activity is identified if the fluorescent emission of the fluorescent acceptor moiety at the wavelength of the fluorescent donor moiety in the presence of the compound is ~~decreased~~ increased relative to the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control.